

MCC (SW/AW) Karen E. Cozza
Force Mass Communication Specialist, Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic

Karen Cozza was born in Duluth, Minn. Her father was an officer in the Army therefore she grew up in various states along the East Coast. After being graduated from high school she pursued an associate degree with a major in Fine Arts in Trenton, N.J.

She enlisted in the Navy in 1990 and began her career as a Cryptologic Technician-Interpretive at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Ca. Her first duty station was Naval Field Station Sinop, Turkey. Two years later she cross-rated to Illustrator-Draftsman(DM) and was stationed on board the USS Yellowstone (AD-41) where she was promoted to Third Class Petty Officer.

After serving a four-year enlistment, she chose to leave the Navy in 1994 for family life. Five years and three daughters later, she reenlisted into the Naval Reserves as a Lithographer's Mate 3rd Class and later that year returned to active duty as a DM. She was sent to serve aboard USS Roosevelt (CVN 71) as the ship's Draftsman. After her promotion to Second Class Petty Officer she served as the Assistant Leading Petty Officer for the Photo Lab where she was trained in photography. She earned her Enlisted Surface Warfare and Enlisted Air Warfare qualifications while aboard.

Cozza transferred to Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force in 2004 where she was promoted to First Class Petty Officer in the first round of the newly created Mass Communication Specialist (MC) rate. It was here that she completed her Bachelor of Science degree. She served as the LPO for Media and Information Technology and was selected as the command Sailor of the Year.

Cozza was sent to the Public Affairs Qualification Course in Fort Meade, Md. where she earned her Enlisted Public Affairs Officer Navy Enlisted Classification.

Shortly after checking on board Fleet Public Affairs Center Headquarters in 2008, she was selected as a Chief Petty Officer. While there she assisted in the transition of the command to the newly formed operational command, Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE). Cozza was part of the working group who put together the MC PQS and first draft of the rating manual. As part of NPASE Headquarters, she served as the Training Officer, Legal Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and LCPO of Fleet Hometown News Center. Cozza attended the then-brand-new Joint Senior Enlisted Public Affairs Course in Fort Meade, Md.

Cozza is serving presently as the Media Officer and Force Mass Communication Specialist at Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic where she oversees media operations on over 75 ships.

Cozza lives in Virginia Beach, Va. with her mother, Kathleen, and three daughters; Caroline, 17; Victoria, 16; and Julianne, 13 along with a multitude of animals.